1D. INDUCED TERMINATIONS OF PREGNANCY (ABORTIONS)

TOTAL REPORTED ABORTIONS

In calendar year 1999, the Arizona Department of Health Services received 10,656 reports of abortions obtained by Arizona residents, 27 percent less than the 14,606 reported in 1998 (Table **1D-1**). It is unclear whether this decline in the number of abortions represents a true decrease in the number of abortions performed or, perhaps, a lower response rate of providers. In 1998, increased media coverage of the regulatory and licensing requirements may have contributed to the improved reporting by abortion providers in the State. The number of 10,656 abortions reported in 1999 was the lowest annual number since 1981.

Twelve (11.6 percent) out of every 100 pregnancies in Arizona in 1999 were reported to end in abortion (**Table 5A-1**). The frequency of reported induced terminations of pregnancy among Black women (14.5 percent) was the highest among ethnic groups. In contrast, less than five percent of pregnancies were reported to end in abortion among American Indian women. The frequency of abortions in relation to the frequency of pregnancies among Hispanic women (8.6 percent reported) was 25.9 percent lower than the statewide average for all ethnic groups.

Most reported abortions in Arizona in 1999 were performed in non-hospital clinics (85.6 percent) and physicians' offices (13 percent). Six out of ten (62.3

percent) women who reported to have an abortion had the procedure for the first time. Two out of three (64.9 percent) Arizona women who reported having an abortion in 1999 and who also identified their marital status were unmarried (Table 5D-5). Eighty-six of reported percent induced terminations of pregnancy occurred during the first trimester of pregnancy (8,856 among 10,299 abortions with known gestational duration, Table 1D-1).

ABORTION RATIOS

The resident abortion ratio in 1999 (the number of reported induced terminations of pregnancy per 1,000 live births) was 132.4, 29.3 percent lower than in 1998 and 35.1 percent lower than in 1991 when it reached its recent peak of 204.0 (Table 1D-1). Black females exceeded the overall abortion ratio by 30 percent (Table 1D-2). The 1999 abortion ratio of 172.3 for Black females was 3.6 times higher than that for American Indian females, whose ratio of 47.8 was the lowest among ethnic groups. The 1999 abortion ratio for Hispanic females was still the second lowest among the ethnic groups (94.4 abortions per 1,000 live births).

ABORTION RATES

The rate of induced terminations of pregnancy per 1,000 female residents aged 15-44 declined from 14.5 in 1998 to 10.2 in 1999, the lowest abortion rate since 1977. A time series analysis of annual abortion data for 1989-1999 reveals a declining trend (**Figure 1D-1**) in surgical terminations of pregnancy in Arizona.

All age-specific abortion rates were lower in 1999 than they were in 1990 (**Figure 1D-2**).